

## NEWSNOTES

### Joint Base Dining Out scheduled for today

The Joint Base Dining Out will be held today in the McGuire AFB Community Center, Bldg. 2705, to celebrate the establishment of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m., with dinner to follow at 7 p.m. Attire will be mess dress/semi-formal for military. As for civilians, ladies may wear after-five evening attire, such as a cocktail dress, tea-length dress or evening gown. Gentlemen should wear a tuxedo or dark suit with dark tie.

Meal choices include chicken or steak portofino with potatoes, a vegetable, garden salad and French chocolate mousse for dessert. Wine will also be available at each table.

### ID card facility offers Saturday hours

The ID card facility located in Room 125 on the first floor of Bldg. 5418, South Scott Plaza, will offer Saturday hours Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 562-2177 for details.

### Flu shots available for active-duty personnel

Effective immediately, all active-duty personnel may proceed to the 87th Medical Group Immunization Clinic, Bldg. 3458 for their seasonal flu vaccination. The clinic will operate Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This is not the H1N1 flu vaccine, this is the seasonal flu vaccine. Active duty personnel may receive the vaccine one of two ways: (1) the FluMist, a live attenuated nasal vaccine or (2) Alfvria, an inactivated injectable vaccine.

Vaccines will be distributed based on availability, i.e., if personnel can receive the FluMist, they will - you cannot elect to take Alfvria because that is your preference.

For more information on the seasonal flu vaccination, call the Immunizations Clinic at 754-9209. Updated information can be found at [www.jointbasemdl.af.mil](http://www.jointbasemdl.af.mil).

### Deadline for newspaper submissions

Deadlines for submitting articles to the ASA Post newspaper have changed. The ASA Public Affairs Office is realigning its newspaper deadlines to match those of Joint Base MDL public affairs.

Articles prepared by writers from military and civilian organizations on the joint base must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. each Monday.

For more information, call David Moore of the ASA Public Affairs Office at 562-4035, or e-mail [david.f.moore@us.army.mil](mailto:david.f.moore@us.army.mil).

### Help is available

In need of crisis intervention and support? Do you, or someone you know, need help? Call Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 or the Outreach Center at 866-966-1020.

## Weather

**FRIDAY** -- Some showers with highs in the low 70s, lows in the low 60s.

**SATURDAY** -- Showers with highs in the mid 70s, lows in the upper 50s.

**SUNDAY** -- Partly cloudy with highs in the low 70s, lows in the low 50s.

**MONDAY** -- Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60s, lows in the low 50s.

**TUESDAY** -- Partly cloudy with highs in the low 70s, lows in the mid 50s.

**WEDNESDAY** -- Some showers with highs in the low 70s, lows in the low 50s.



**ONE FORCE** -- Randall Calderon Sr., Department of Defense Police patrolman at Fort Dix, left, and Airman 1st Class Alexander McPeake, 87th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, work side-by-side to ensure the safety and security of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Staff Sgt. Danielle Johnson

## Joint Base security integrates

Staff Sgt. Danielle Johnson  
Joint Base MDL Public Affairs

As part of the ongoing joint base effort, Department of Defense police at Lakehurst and Fort Dix will merge into the Air Force security forces squadron at McGuire Air Force Base Oct. 1.

This merger will ensure a seamless - and secure - transition to the new Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, which the Air Force will lead on Oct. 1.

"We are currently identifying the best practices from each organization and applying those practices where feasible," said Master Sgt. Robert Richards of the 87th Security Forces Squadron

Joint Base Integration Office. "The emphasis must always be placed on the protection of resources and security of the entire joint base community."

Joint base security officials have previously initiated joint patrols and responses as a way of training security personnel and familiarizing them with tactics and procedures. In the process,

officials are also identifying areas in which each service has more reliable and efficient practices then incorporating them into day-to-day operations.

An added challenge is the size of the installation, which measures approximately 20 miles from east to west.

"Integrated base defense and owner- (continued on page 3)



**BAND OF BROTHERS** -- Lt. Col. Omar Bholat, Staff Sgt. Antuawn Jiles and Maj. Scott Pomyglski, from left, honor fallen comrade Maj. John P. Pryor during a memorialization ceremony at the 99th RSC complex Sept. 27.

Staff Sgt. Alyn-Michael Macleod, 99th RSC Public Affairs

## Reserve building dedicated

Staff Sgt. Alyn-Michael Macleod  
99th Public Affairs Office

Family, friends and distinguished guests braved wet fall weather to attend the building dedication honoring Maj. John Paul Pryor (M.D.) at the 99th Regional Support Command complex Sept. 27.

Pryor was killed in action on Dec. 25, 2008,

when a mortar exploded near his compound in Mosul, Iraq.

Speakers at the ceremony included Maj. Gen. William Monk III, commanding general, 99th Regional Support Command (RSC); Maj. Gen. Dean G. Sienko, commander, 3rd Medical Command; Lt. Col. Omar Bholat, Rear Detachment commander, 1st FST; C. William Schwab, M.D.,

(continued on page 6)

## Civilians receive equal pay hike

Fred W. Baker III  
American Forces Press Service

9/30/2009 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Defense Department employees paid under the National Security Personnel System will receive the same base salary increases this year as their General Schedule counterparts, a Defense Department official said Sept. 29.

The move comes as senior Defense Department, Office of Personnel Management and White House officials work to determine the future of the troubled pay-for-performance system.

Most civilians under the NSPS last year actually received about the same pay increases as they would have under the general schedule, said Brad Bunn, the Defense Department's executive officer for NSPS. But a report this summer by Defense Business Board officials found the system's "pay pool" process complicated and confusing for most employees.

Employees questioned the assessment and evaluation process and didn't understand the pay pool process, Mr. Bunn said.

Last year, a portion of the money allotted for base-salary increases was placed into the overall pay pool, which is then divided among those in the pool based on performance (continued on page 2)

## Soldiers run in honor of fallen hero

Wayne Cook  
Public Affairs Staff

Thirty-five Soldiers from the Watson Medical Support Element (WMSE), Mobilization Readiness Battalion (MRB) and 72nd Field Artillery Battalion travelled to New York City to participate in the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run Sept. 27.

Led by the commander of the WMSE, Col. John Ekstrand, the Soldiers joined more than 20,000 runners from around the globe to remember Stephen Siller and others who gave their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, and in the Global War on Terrorism.

Stephen Siller was a member of Squad Company 1, Fire Department of New York, who had just finished his evening shift on that ill-fated morning and was headed home to his family when he heard the call over his scanner about the attacks on the Twin Towers. He turned his vehicle around and headed back toward the World Trade Center (WTC) but got only as far as the Brooklyn end of the Brooklyn/Battery Tunnel (continued on page 3)



U.S. Air Force photo

## Delaware brigade welcomed home

Capt. Beau Biden, the son of Vice President Joseph Biden and a member of the 261st Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, left, is welcomed home at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst by Delaware Gov. Jack Markell on Sept. 25. More than 100 Soldiers from the first state wrapped up their year-long Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment and are demobilizing at the Army Support Activity.



# 'Year of Family' site launched

1st Lt. Derek White  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

9/28/2009 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials have launched a new Web site to showcase the Year of the Air Force Family effort.

Airmen and their families can log on to <http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp> to learn about AF-wide initiatives, monthly themes and programs, as well as contact local installation Airman Family and Readiness Centers to find out about local events and activities.

Earlier this year, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley designated July 2009 to July 2010 as the "Year of the Air Force Family," a year-long focus on Air Force programs highlighting the importance of, and commitment to, the entire Air Force family: all Airmen, married and single; spouses; children; Air Force civilians; extended families; and retirees.

"We will devote this year to identifying what we are doing right and what we need to do better to support the entire Air Force family, and to rekindle the sense of community that has been our tradition for so many generations," Schwartz said.

Findings from the April "Caring for People" forum provided direction for the year-long focus that highlights improvements to existing programs.

It also introduces new initiatives built on four pillars that meet the unique needs of Air Force families to include health and wellness; Airman and family support; education, development and employment; and Airman and family housing.

Together with Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy, the service's senior leaders are addressing key areas of concern to Airmen. Some of the programs receiving special emphasis include deployment support, fitness, family safety awareness, exceptional family member programs and single Airmen initiatives.

"You can rest assured that taking care of families is a solemn promise we make to each Airman and family and one that Chief Roy, General Schwartz, and I each take very seriously," Donley said. "And we make this commitment not only because it's the right thing to do for our Airmen, but because it is the smart thing to do for our Air Force."

Airmen and their families can expect programs and events tailored to the needs of their individual communities. This may include reintroducing family support programs already available to Airmen and their families today, as well as announcing new initiatives that will serve as model Airman support programs and family support programs long into the future.

"The strength of the nation's Air Force is not the platforms we operate or the technologies we employ, as good as they are," Schwartz said. "It is our Airmen and their families. The Air Force is a great place to work, live, and play. Our intent is to make it even better."

## Communication network keeps joint base connected

Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson  
Joint Base MDL Public Affairs

Personnel from the 87th Communications Squadron finished preparing 300 computers Sept. 18 to be installed at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst in support of the joint-base endeavor.

Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and NAES Lakehurst are all combining support services in accordance with a Department of Defense mandate, 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Report Joint Basing Recommendation 146, affecting various co-located military installations across the nation.

Per the mandate, the Air Force will take the lead on what will be the sole tri-service base in the DoD inventory. Several other military installations are combining support as well, though they are based on dual-service and the lead branch of service varies.

The DoD requires Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to attain Full Operational Capability by Oct. 1. To meet this looming deadline, members of 87th CS have undertaken the task of integrating 800-plus personnel from their installation-specific networks onto the Air Force network.

Capt. Doug Steiner, the plans and resources flight commander for the 87th CS, oversees all the production, storage and communication of information using computers and electronic technology on the installation and in support of the joint base. "Our goal at the 87th CS is to ensure approximately 800 new folks — about 300 from Lakehurst and 400 to 500 from Fort Dix — are seamlessly integrated into what will be JB MDL," he said.

The combined location will encompass 42,000 acres requiring additional communication towers, telephone switching systems, software upgrades, IT equipment and much more.

"That's a lot of land and space. We'll have people spread out all over the place," Steiner



U.S. Air Force photo/Wayne Russell

**LAKEHURST LINK — Airman 1st Class Christina Johnson, foreground, loads programs on new computers while Airman Mark Goins unpacks another. Both Airmen from the 87th Communications Squadron are temporarily assigned to prepare 300 new computers for Lakehurst personnel transferring to the Air Force under the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst endeavor.**

explained. "My biggest role is to ensure we incorporate Lakehurst and Dix into our network and those folks are up and running by October first."

Though nearly 1,000 jobs will transfer to the Air Force, the Army and Navy will continue to maintain their respective missions and networks. The Air Force is assuming the support function and overall installation command. The effort marks the first of its kind historically.

"Though it's a big change for those employees, we're doing

the best we can to extend this network so they can still do their job and the move will be less disruptive. We also need to make sure we welcome them into our Air Force family and communicate with them through the Air Force network," Steiner said.

With change, comes a lot of hard work, something Tech. Sgt. Darrin Littlefield, noncommissioned officer in charge of the plans and resources flight, can attest to. He makes sure the right people get the right parts and that the team will be there to get

everything installed, hooked up and ready to go.

"A big part of my job is dealing with the various terminologies and ways of doing business between the different branches of service — trying to mesh them all together — to attain one common goal: to get us to joint base MDL," Littlefield said.

The NCOIC spends a lot of hours visiting all three installations, meeting with their directors of communications to discuss the challenges and ways ahead. Between these communications leaders and experts, they collectively make sure the necessary folks are removed from their respective networks to facilitate them moving onto the JB MDL network.

The Army personnel will keep their current computers, though they will be reconfigured to make them compatible with the Air Force network. The Navy, however, will receive 300 new computers at Lakehurst because their current equipment is under a contract which is not part of Air Force operations.

"It's better for the Navy in the long run because their computers are the most current and won't need any updates for some time," Littlefield said.

The overall cost for the additional communications requirements exceeds \$1.5 million, a figure that will bring returns in the future.

"It's just like a company going green. It takes spending money up front to improve the environment," Steiner said. "Investments typically cost front money with expected returns coming in later; this situation is similar to that."

Change can bring tumultuous moments, but people adapt and the new becomes the norm.

"There's ups and downs, little victories here and there — but the real highlight for me will be after FOC when we meet the October first deadline. We're going to do that — and when we do, our joint base Commander, Colonel Gina Grosso, can say, 'We are (fully operational), we have met the congressional and

### COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

*The Action Line is an integral part of the base feedback network. Base personnel are urged to use the chain of command first to address their concerns.*

*If you are not satisfied with the response from your chain of command, or you are unable to resolve the problem or concern, call 754-3247. Action lines may be made anonymously, however it is recommended you leave your name and number in case more information is needed to address your concern.*



Col. Gina Grosso  
Joint Base Commander

DoD mandate and have set up the only tri-service base in the inventory," ... that I've been able to play a significant part in this will be my personal highpoint," Steiner said.

That highpoint is on the near horizon as the deadline approaches, but the 87th CS's team is confident they will meet the demands set upon them.

Steiner said failure is not an option. "There will be no show stoppers in 'comm,' the network will be extended as much as possible. Everyone will have access to the JB MDL network who needs it — come FOC, one way or another."

The plans and resources team are putting final touches on their projects, crossing the final bridges and clearing the final hurdles, not without difficulties, but with assurances.

"There're always challenges

with anything you do; overall it will be a success," Littlefield said. "Challenges are just another opportunity to excel ..."

Though challenges both organizationally and individually will be faced during the transition and may pose difficulties as cultures are merged, the overall goal is to benefit the greater good.

"Overall it's not what's best for individuals, or particular branches of service, but it's what's best for the DoD which equates to what's best for our nation. Though it could put us to the test at first, once we begin to realize a lot of the savings and economies of force we're able to produce as a tri-base, it will be recognized as a good thing. We may not see immediate rewards, but 10 to 15 years down the road it will be realized. When they look back, they'll say it was a good thing ...," Steiner said.

### ASA COMMANDER INPUT

*We value Customer Feedback and performance improvement.*

*It is important that we will continue to remain a cornerstone to the operations as the Army Support Activity (ASA). Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) is your direct link to Army service providers of the ASA. This is your opportunity to rate products and service providers.*

*It is a vital piece in evaluating feedback and provides service providers with a tool that allows them to directly and quickly affect the well-being of our customers. You may also offer suggestions for how we are doing at <http://www.ice.dica.mil>. Click Army CONUS, then Fort Dix.*



Col. Patrick Slowey  
ASA Commander

Log on to ICE and let us know how we are doing at <http://www.ice.dica.mil>. Click Army CONUS, then Fort Dix.

## the Post

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## Pay hike

(continued from page 1)

ratings. This year, no money allotted for base-salary increases will go into the pool, Mr. Bunn said.

Employees under the NSPS system who receive a satisfactory performance rating of 2 or higher will receive a salary increase equal to their GS counterparts. Those who receive an unsatisfactory rating of 1 will not receive a base salary increase.

Defense officials felt this was the most "prudent course of action," given the problems reported with the NSPS, he said.

Because most in NSPS received about the same raise as they would have otherwise, this move will not significantly reduce the amount of funds used to reward performance, Mr. Bunn said.

Those funds come from pots that were used for step increases, promotions between grades and cash bonuses under the general schedule. No changes are planned this year in how performance-based awards are paid. Future changes to the NSPS need to tie an employee's performance rating more clearly to any subsequent salary increase, Mr. Bunn said.

About 205,000 of the 865,000 Defense Department civilians are in NSPS. The department stopped the conversion of GS employees to NSPS in March. The amount of the base salary increase will not be known until the president signs an executive order implementing the 2010 pay adjustment.

## Airmen must choose to act

1st Col. Ken Yunevich  
51st Communications Squadron  
Commander

9/28/2009 - OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFNS) — There he was in the middle of the hallway about to turn to the door on the left, retreating to quiet and solitude. Then the door on the right opened and a voice beckoned him that way because the "people are waiting."

The scene described here is from a movie about Abe Lincoln, the lawyer from Illinois, before his political career transformed him into our nation's 16th president. After a dramatic courtroom victory, the "people" could hardly wait to hear more from young Mr. Lincoln.

To the left, he had a sort of comfortable peace and a promise of the status quo. To the right he had challenges that required energy and commitment, but a promise of new hope and a better future.

Well, you know which way he turned. After a brief hesitation, as if to assure himself of the decision he was about to make, he turned right.

I caught the end of this movie recently while just relaxing at home. But it was Lincoln's pause in the hallway that captured my attention.

To me it represented that moment of self-awareness before that sometimes awesome choice of doing nothing or doing something, of being a spectator or getting involved, of behaving indifferently or making a difference.

Sometimes it's a choice that comes at great personal sacrifice; sometimes it's a choice that costs very little other than some time and

effort. The choice has played out so many times in our nation's rich history, and it is a choice that plays out so very often today and every day.

After reflecting on the events over the last couple of weeks, I can see how this dramatic moment of decision can have such a lasting impact. Those moments are inspiring; they should be remembered.

Let us remember the heroic actions of many following the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Let us remember the enduring heart and strength surrounding the great sacrifice of our prisoners of war and missing in action.

Let us even remember the determination of those leading the charge for the birth of an independent Air Force, starting a 62-year heritage built on high achievement and innovation.

Let us remember the brave, the alone and unafraid, our brothers and sisters in harm's way today and again tomorrow.

Let us also personally resolve to not let our own moments pass by as wasted opportunities. Although we may not choose the circumstances we find ourselves in, how we conduct ourselves in those circumstances is our choice.

It makes no difference how large or how small the situation; what matters is how we act. It matters that we do act.

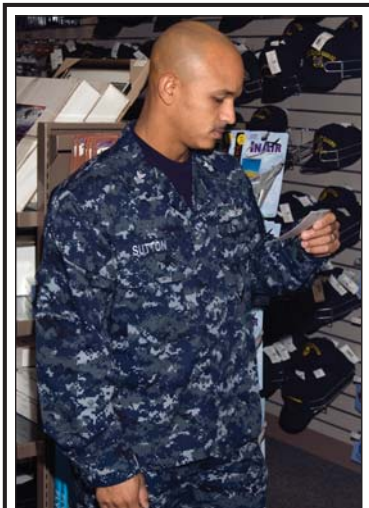
Our core values demand for us to do something. We are not ones to stand by idly. We must use our talents and experience. Get involved. Make a difference. People are not only waiting for us, they need us to inspire, to bring new hope and a promise of a better future.

Fellow Airmen, make the decision. Choose the door on the right.

Joint Base Commander	Col. Gina Grosso
ASA Commander	Col. Patrick Slowey
Joint Base PAO	Angel Lopez
ASA PAO/ Managing Editor	David Moore
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U.S. Navy photo

## Navy dons new blue

A Sailor wears the Navy working uniform (NWU) while shopping at the Naval Air Station Oceana Navy Exchange. The NWU is intended for year-round wear and will be the standard working uniform ashore by October 2010. The NWU will replace working utilities, tropical working uniforms, wash khakis, winter working blue, aviation working green, and non-tactical/environmental usage of camouflage utility uniforms.

## Security integrates

(continued from page 1)  
user responsibilities across the installation become even more important as our area of responsibility expands from 3,600 acres [at McGuire Air Force Base] to 42,000 acres," said Maj. James Coleman, 87th Security Forces Squadron executive officer.

Despite the installation-wide changes to security operations, base personnel and visitors

should notice minimal changes when entering, leaving or working at the installation.

Officials will maintain current base access procedures during the transition to joint base operations, but will continually review, evaluate and recommend security improvements to the Joint Installation Security Council as concerns or threats are identified.

"A lot of hard work has gone into making the 87th SFS a truly integrated unit," said Richards. "The base populace can expect to see posts throughout the installation with a mix of personnel - including military and civilians from all branches [of the military] - working together. Integration will be seen from the installation entry points and patrols, all the way to our senior leadership. Along with integration, comes the vast array of experience that comes with a diverse workforce. This experience will make the 87th SFS the premier Joint Base security force."

Kryn P. Westhoven  
ESGR Public Affairs

Whether they were the reserve component service member or the employer who supported them while deployed, everyone at Drumthwacket in Princeton on this Sept. 15 evening knew the importance of the New Jersey State Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Pro Patria awards.

The crowd of more than 100 gathered at the Governor's official residence for the annual presentation of the highest honor a state ESGR Committee can bestow to an employer. The state awards committee reviewed 96 nominations by the more than 16,000 Army and Air National Guard members; Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard reservists serving in various units within the Garden State.

From those nominations for the national Freedom Award, the state committee selected NetJets and Honeywell in the large corporation category, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation represented the small business category and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office was the top public sector employer.

Both NetJets and Honeywell received nominations from reserve service members in several states. NetJets, a north Jersey-based company that specializes in selling and renting private business jets, has seen nearly 400



Kryn P. Westhoven, ESGR Public Affairs Director

**TOP EMPLOYERS --** Maj. Gen. William Monk, commander of the Army Reserve's 99th Regional Support Command, left, congratulates John Colucci, vice president of sales for NetJets on receiving the Pro Patria large corporation award from the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) field committee. Carmen Venticquie, state chairman, center, is joined in the presentation by Maj. Gen. Glenn Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, second from right, and Col. Gina Grosso, commander of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

employers called to serve the nation in recent years and has created a supportive environment for service members and their families.

NetJets was selected as one of the fifteen employers to receive the prestigious national ESGR Freedom Award this year.

For the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, located in Short Hills, waiting for an Army Guard Soldier to return from Iraq so he could be interviewed for a job opening was an easy decision according to CEO Peter Wilderott. That Soldier was Master Sgt. Steve Coleman who is now the Vice President of Military Programs.

"In my opinion, after 25 years in the military, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is a shining example of the principles

of ESGR," said Coleman in his nomination of his employer.

For Monmouth County Sheriff Kim Guadagno it is matter of doing the right thing for the 20 personnel she oversees that wear a military uniform when they take off a sheriff or correctional officer uniform. She added that it is the leadership of the county Board Freeholders that allow her to take care of the deployed service members.

With nearly half the total military force being provided by Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen the nation's defense relies on this part-time force according to Carmen Venticquie, state chairman of the New Jersey ESGR field committee. "That is why it is so important that we recognize our sup-

portive employers."

Venticquie thanked the more than 100 volunteers on the state ESGR committee who donated over 6,000 hours of time to provide briefings to 27,000 service members and nearly seven-thousand family members in a dozen months.

For The Adjutant General of New Jersey it was the many flights that the New Jersey ESGR coordinated to get almost 400 employers to see National Guard Soldiers preparing to enter a combat zone.

"Employers get it they understand the sacrifices that their employees are making," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth.

"They are serving our nation in an era of persistent conflict," added Rieth. "It is tough time to wear the uniform."



Shawn Morris

**FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS --** Col. John Ekstrand, Walston Medical Support Element commander, gives firefighters the thumbs up as he leads the Fort Dix team, including guidon bearer Staff Sgt. Francis Pena, during the 8th Annual Tunnel to Towers Run in New York City Sept. 27.

## Run for heroes

(continued from page 1)  
before traffic was halted and he could go no further.

Jumping from his vehicle, Siller donned his fireman's turnout gear and sprinted along the catwalk in the tunnel to the other end. There he met a fire crew who transported him to ground zero at the WTC where it is believed he tried to meet up with his fire squad and entered the wrecked buildings. Neither Siller nor his squad mates survived.

Siller's family members and friends tried to figure out a way to honor him and the other heroes and it was decided that his run through the tunnel toward danger to save others epitomized what he was all about. This year's event was the eighth held in his honor.

Participating in the run was a very moving experience for

many of the Soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Mercedes Ramos-Tixe, the personnel non-commissioned officer-in-charge at the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, MRB, said, "The Tunnel to Towers Run was significant to me because I live across the river and saw how the towers came down. I will never forget the feeling of emptiness and how dramatically the city skyline changed on that dark day. The run gave me a sense of closure because, for the last eight years, I could not bring myself to visit Ground Zero."

An avid runner, the operations officer at the MRB, Capt. Michael Liss, said, "I have run many races that supported different foundations and organizations, but this was the first race that I have taken part in that was dedicated to the memory of a man who displayed a true act of dedication and the selfless service to help those he did not even know."

Sgt. 1st Class James Avery of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, MRB, stated that he participated in the run because he could identify with the hero. "As a member of the U.S. Army, I would run toward danger in order to save lives, whether my shift was over or not. It's just the right thing to do. Stephen Siller saved countless lives. I partici-

pated to honor his memory. His heroism should never be forgotten."

This was the first such event that Ekstrand had taken part in. The colonel noted that when the Soldiers were running in formation through the tunnel and caught up to other runners they would look behind and notice the guidon and formation and move to the side to let the Soldiers pass. He said he was very inspired by the whole event.

At the end of the five-kilometer run, the runners were treated to free food and drinks by more than 20 vendors from the New York area. Music was provided by bands on the stage and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani addressed the crowd and thanked them for their support of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

Another organization that represented the Army in the run was the United States Military Academy at West Point. Nearly 700 cadets were led by the Dean of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan.

Although the rain kept everyone wet, it couldn't dampen the spirits of those who showed up to honor Siller and all the fallen heroes of Sept. 11 and the Global War on Terrorism.

For more information, visit [www.tunneltotowersrun.org](http://www.tunneltotowersrun.org).



1



## *JB MDL facts*

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst provides installation management to the Department of Defense's only tri-service base.

Located 18 miles southeast of Trenton, the 42,000-contiguous acres are home to more than 80 mission partners and 40 mission commanders providing a wide range of combat capability. The base spans more than 20 miles east to west. It is bordered by two of the largest counties in New Jersey, Ocean and Burlington, which include 10 townships or boroughs.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure legislation directed the Department of Defense to realign 26 separate installations into 12 joint base installations. Recommendation 146 directed the relocation of installation support functions for New Jersey's Fort Dix and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst to McGuire Air Force Base.

The Vice Chiefs of Staff signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Agreement between the three installations establishing Initial Operational Capability for JB MDL as April 10, 2009, with Full Operational Capability beginning Oct. 1, 2009.

JB MDL is home to many DOD missions to include: the 99th Regional Support Command, the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, the 108th Air Refueling Wing, the 305th Air Mobility Wing, the 514th Air Mobility Wing, the 621st Contingency Response Wing, the Army Support Activity, the Naval Air Systems Command, the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, and the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center. Several federal, state and local agencies to include the United States Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, the New Jersey National Guard, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Agriculture also reside on JB MDL.

In addition, the joint base provides installation management support for 3,933 facilities with an approximate value of \$9.3 billion in physical infrastructure. More than 42,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilians and their family members living and working on and around JB MDL contribute to the economic impact for the state of New Jersey.

Active-duty, reservists and guardsmen ensure total force integration by training and supporting installation operations, and preserving our country's homeland defense, while sustaining global contingency operations.

JB MDL is committed to providing world-class installation management to support expeditionary operations in a time of persistent conflict. Together, we make-up America's premier joint-warfighting base – uniquely capable of projecting air, land and sea power in support of our nation's defense.

## JB MDL Mission Partners

[illegible]



**LEAVING A LEGACY** — Maj. John Chovanec speaks to Frankie Pryor, son of Maj. John P. Pryor, during the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) memorialization ceremony at the 99th RSC Headquarters on Fort Dix Sept. 27. Pryor was honored in the memorialization ceremony hosted by the 99th RSC. Pryor died in Mousl, Iraq, during his second combat tour. He was assigned to the 1st Medical Detachment, Forward Surgical Team from Fort Totten, N.Y., an elite triage unit that operates on the front lines.

SpC. Kevin D. Harrison  
99th RSC Public Affairs



## Building dedicated

(Continued from page 1)  
professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Maj. John Chovanec, M.D.

Guests spoke in honor of Pryor, remembering him for his compassion, his professionalism and his commitment to others above all.

"John Pryor lived the Albert Schweitzer quote that hung in his office: 'Seek always to do some good, somewhere ... For remember, you don't lie in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too,'" said Sienko.

Sienko added that Pryor's sacrifice would not be forgotten. "What he did with his life will remain an inspiration to all of us for the rest of our lives," declared Sienko.

Schwab echoed those sentiments recalling an instance when he had received an e-mail from a mother in January who lost her 17-year-old daughter after a motor vehicle crash.

"He [John Pryor] was truly genuine and sincere not just communicating with us as a professional," Schwab said, "but as another human being with emotion and compassion and true concern. John was the ultimate physician."

Friends and co-workers see the new building as a way to further enhance the memories of their esteemed colleague.

"Further generations will probably digitally review who John Paul Pryor was in the moments when they pass through this door" explained Schwab.

The 163,000 square feet building was officially opened



Staff Sgt. Alyn-Michael Macleod, 99th RSC Public Affairs  
**NEVER FORGET** — Maj. Gen. William Monk, 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) commanding general, and Dr. Carmela Calvo, wife of fallen Soldier Maj. John P. Pryor, observe the memorial monument after its unveiling during a ceremony Sept. 27.

on February 28. It is the home of six units that epitomize the transformed United States Army Reserve.

Together, the Soldiers of these diverse yet complementary units will use this state of the art facility to ensure the Army Reserve continues to provide trained and ready Soldiers and units to the nation.

John Pryor was one of those trained and ready Soldiers.

"A true example of what a hero embodies today," Monk

said, "He never stopped. He never slowed down. He strives to change the wrongs in this world and on the way, he touched so many lives; both military and civilian — on the battlefields in Iraq and in the emergency rooms in Pennsylvania."

"We memorialize this building today, in honor of a man whose core values centered on duty, country, and honor. What he gave us in return was service, sacrifice, and heroism," Monk concluded.

## Storied regiment reunites

Lt. Col. Richard Blake and  
Capt. Linda Kobus  
3/309th Regiment

For the first time in nine years, the three battalions of the 309th Regiment reunited to conduct a reunion in celebration of their proud regimental heritage as a fighting force of the 78th Infantry Division and of their current mission training Reserve Component units for combat deployment as a First Army element.

The gathering took advantage of the on-post presence of the Liverpool, N.Y.-based 3rd Battalion, 309th Regiment Combat Support/Combat Service Support (CS/CSS), 174th Infantry Brigade, which was on a training support mission running weapons qualifications ranges at Fort Dix, where 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 309th Regiment (CS/CSS), 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, are stationed.

Although 3rd Battalion has conducted missions at Fort Dix in years past, the high demands of mobilization operations overcame the opportunity to build esprit de corps among the sister units, which share a distinguished combat history.

Despite a rainy start, Regimental Reunion activities began at 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 6 with a 2.3-mile run organized by 1st Battalion featuring the regimental colors and streamers. 174th Infantry Brigade Commander, Col. Chipper Lewis, of Fort Drum, N.Y., and Sgt. Maj. Milagros Vega, operations sergeant of the headquarters company, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, of Fort Dix led



Master Sgt. Daphne Angell  
**RAINY REUNION** — Soldiers from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 309th Infantry Regiment, with colors and streamers flying high in the early morning rain, run across the roadways of their traditional home station of Fort Dix Aug. 6.

the formation as honorary Regimental Commander and Command Sergeant Major. As the sun broke through the clouds, more than 200 regimental Soldiers gathered for an afternoon of festivities at the post's John F. Mann Park.

Activities included a historical display of the 309th Infantry Regiment's achievements during World War I and II, along with sporting events such as volleyball, horseshoes and a homerun derby organized by 2nd Battalion. Soldiers from each battalion competed with 1st Battalion taking home the trophy for garnering the most first- and second-place finishes.

A regimental picnic and dunk-tank fundraiser to support the battalions' Family Readiness Groups, featuring leadership from all three units, was organized by 3rd Battalion.

The regimental reunion culminated in an awards presentation and a ceremonial saber cutting of the regimental cake by the commanders and command sergeants major.

"It's critical for Soldiers to understand the historical implications of the unit they are with," said Lt. Col. Seth M. Hoffer, 3rd Battalion Commander. "It adds another dimension to the meaning of the words 'teamwork' and 'camaraderie'."

## Army Reserve unveils first virtual installation

Staff Sgt. Alyn-Michael  
Macleod & SpC. Kevin Harrison  
99th RSC Public Affairs Office

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The Army Reserve took another step in enhancing Soldier and family quality of life with the opening of the nation's first "virtual installation" here at the Wadsworth Army Reserve Center on September 12.

Although "virtual" brings to mind images of computer games and make-believe, this new concept, known as the Army Strong Community Center (ASCC) was the vision of Mrs. Laura Stultz, wife of Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve.

Challenged by Soldiers ready to answer the call of duty from civilian life and yet living far from a traditional military base, Mrs. Stultz envisioned a central location where servicemembers and families could access benefits, support channels, information, resources and referrals.

In September 2008, at the request of Lt. Gen. Stultz, site locators began searching for suitable locations to open the community centers. Tom Cannon, site locator for the 99th Regional Support Command, searched the 13 state northeast region for a site to fit the request.

Maj. Gen. Norbert Rappl (retired), who is currently serving as a New York Army Reserve ambassador, immediately recognized the potential benefits of the program.

"It provides a place for Soldiers and families that are living here in the community to come get answers to questions," he said.

Rappl said the original plan for the center was to place it in a location near a supermarket or mall, but he recommended the Reserve Center housing his former command, the 98th Division, be considered for the project.

According to Rappl, Cannon saw the benefits of adding the ASCC to the Reserve Center. Besides the advantage of being located near a major highway, the current Reserve Center is also serviced by bus transportation, contains an existing ID card facility and a Post Exchange where Soldiers and families can take advantage of military savings while shopping.

An additional, unforeseen benefit was the support from the 98th Division to provide the ASCC with all the necessary equipment to get up and running while funding was still being worked out. With this assistance, the ASCC was able to unofficially begin assisting families in December of 2008, a mere three months after the initial location search had begun.

Since the unofficial December opening, the ASCC has provided services to more than 500 military families, including active Army, Reserve, and National



Staff Sgt. Alyn-Michael Macleod, 99th RSC Public Affairs  
**ARMY STRONG** — Michele L. Zelaya, community support leader, Laura Stultz, Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, commander of the U.S. Army Reserve, and Marianne W. Sernoffsky, community support leader, from left, stand outside the Army's first Army Strong Community Center at Wadsworth United States Army Reserve Center, 98th Division Headquarters, Rochester, N.Y.

Guard Soldiers. They have also been able to assist families in all of the other military branches.

Although mainly an Army program, Marianne Sernoffsky, an ASCC employee, clarified that the plan is to aid all servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

With such ambitious goals, it was important that the employees of the center partner with the local community. Rappl explained that the employees put in extensive hours and intense work getting out into the greater Rochester area and ensuring that the ASCC mission and resources were presented to the community and that support for the Soldiers and their families was obtained.

Presented first to the Red Cross and Veteran's Affairs hospital, Sernoffsky and the other ASCC employees were soon referred to other community locations not immediately affiliated with the military and yet anxious to help. Across Rochester the community members and businesses rallied to provide support to the ASCC and to assist in not only getting the word out, but assisting families in whatever ways they could.

An example of the efforts put forth by the ASCC was highlighted in a recent visit by a new Army wife. Married only a

month, she was separated from her husband when he received orders to report to Korea. The wife wished to accompany her husband to his new duty station and arrived at the center seeking assistance with Army procedures and the relocation process.

Not only were the employees at the center able to assist the woman in obtaining her ID card, Sernoffsky revealed, but they were also able to begin walking her through the steps to be reunited with her husband in Korea.

Darryl W. Porter, Assistant to the Mayor, City of Rochester, pointed out that success stories like these will need continued partnership between the local community and the Army Reserve.

"Without the community, this would not be successful," he explained.

With 500 families already served, and backed by a strong community partnership, the ASCC is expected to reach even further into this community as time goes on.

With their initial success and a continued commitment to Soldiers and families, the Rochester ASCC will serve as a model to the other centers expected to be constructed across the country in the future.

## Thomas Edison College, VA partner

TRENTON — Thomas Edison State College has been selected by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a participating institution in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program.

The Yellow Ribbon program, a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, allows colleges and universities in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The college's participation in the program will be especially beneficial for veterans interested in earning a master's degree and will enable some veterans, depending on the type and amount of their GI bill education benefits, to earn a college degree with little or no out-of-pocket expenses.

Thomas Edison State College's designation as a Yellow Ribbon institution comes as the college prepares to launch a new program designed to help veterans and their family members maximize their GI bill education benefits and ease the transition for students moving from active duty to veteran status.

The new Veteran Education Program at Thomas Edison State College will accommodate the unique needs of veterans and their spouses and dependents. The program features a personal Academic Program Plan for veterans that applies knowledge gained through military training, previous college work, and other professional training toward a degree, and creates a seamless educational transition for service members who begin a degree program during active duty and complete that degree using GI education benefits as a veteran.

"We are uniquely positioned to leverage our decades of experience serving active duty military personnel to provide excellent service to veterans of the U.S. military and their families," said George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

"We are honored to serve those who have served our country and use our expertise in providing flexible, high-quality educational programs for adults on behalf of our country's veterans."

In addition, Thomas Edison State College is partnering with the state's senior public colleges and universities and the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities in the Operation College Promise effort. The group was awarded a \$100,000 ACE/Wal-Mart "Success for Veterans" grant that is being used to provide statewide access to information that will help veterans to use their education benefits, and to share best practices for serving veterans and service members with all of New Jersey's institutions of higher learning.

Thomas Edison State College has received national and local recognition for its work designing academic programs for active duty military personnel. For the past two years, Military Advanced Education magazine named Thomas Edison State College as one of the top ten schools in the country for service members. In 2008, the New Jersey State Senate presented the college with a resolution its commitment to providing educational programs to the United States military.

**Thomas Edison State College's designation as a Yellow Ribbon institution comes as the college prepares to launch a new program designed to help veterans and their family members maximize their GI bill education benefits and ease the transition from active duty to veteran status.**

# Community Events

## Chapel Services

### ASA Dix - 562-2020

#### Sunday Services

##### **Main Chapel**

**Traditional Protestant**  
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Catholic**  
10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**Gospel**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Sunday School**  
10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**Jewish Prayer Room**  
Room 27  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Chapel 5**  
Bldg. 5950 Church St.  
If chapel is closed  
call 562-3311  
to schedule a time for prayer

**Protestant, Catholic,  
Latter Day Saints**  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

**Islamic Prayer Room**  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**COL - Chaplain's tent**  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

### McGuire - 754-4673

#### **Chapel 1**

**Daily Catholic Mass**  
Monday through Thursday  
11:35 a.m.

**Catholic Reconciliation**  
Saturdays 4 p.m.

**Catholic Mass**  
Saturdays 5 p.m.  
Sundays 9 a.m.

**Protestant Gospel Service**  
Sundays 11:15 a.m.

**Chapel 2**

**Protestant Contemporary  
Service**  
Sundays 9:45 a.m.

## Jewish Services

Join Chap. (Capt.) Rabbi Berdugo for Lunch and Learn every Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Chapel 1. Call 754-5908 for information.

## Religious Activities

### **ASA Dix Chapels**

**Protestant Men of the  
Chapel Prayer Breakfast**  
Fourth Saturday of each month  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Protestant Women  
of the Chapel**  
Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
at the Fort Dix Main Chapel  
and the fourth Tuesday at  
Buttonwood Hospital.

**McGuire Chapels**

**Protestant Women  
of the Chapel**  
meeting at Chapel 2  
Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.  
Thursdays from 9-11 a.m.  
(Wee Church Provided)

**Catholic Women of the Chapel**  
Fridays 9 a.m.

**Joint Base Protestant  
Chapel Night**  
AWANA Clubs at Chapel 2  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

## CLUB DIX

723-3272

## Hours of Operation

### **Smokehouse Restaurant**

Lunch Served  
Tuesday through Friday  
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturday to Monday

## Java Café

Monday through Friday  
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Lisa Evans

## Protestant Women host social tea

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) share food, music and games at the PWOC Tea, which kicked off the new season Sept. 15 at the Fort Dix Main Chapel. PWOC ASA Dix and McGuire always welcome new members. Meetings are Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fort Dix, and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. on McGuire.

### **Blue Room**

Wednesday  
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Thursday through Saturday  
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### **Computer Lab**

Monday and Tuesday  
7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday through Friday  
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday  
Noon to 10 p.m.

Sunday  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### **Bingo Nights at the McGuire Club**

Bingo starts at 7 p.m. every  
Monday and Wednesday evening  
at the McGuire Club. Early Bird  
starts at 6:45 p.m. and features a  
variety of games including a pro-  
gressive number jackpot of  
\$2,000, consolation of \$200.  
Call 754-2396.

### **The Attic**

The Attic is in need of volun-  
teers. For more information, call  
the Warfighting & Family Read-  
iness Center at 754-5748.

## Griffith Field House

Building 6053  
562-4888

### **Combat Fitness Challenge**

(Military Only)  
Monday and Wednesday  
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

## McGuire Thrift Shop

Building 3446  
353-1126

The McGuire OSC Thrift  
Shop is now open and ready for  
business. After being closed for

the past month, the store is open  
and stocked with a wide variety  
of clothing, shoes, accessories,  
uniforms, books, toys, house-  
wares, sporting goods, baby  
gear, and more! The hours are:

**Wednesday through Friday**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**First Saturday of the month**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information or to  
volunteer, call Jennifer Roberts  
at (609) 353-1126 or visit Bldg.  
3446 (between the BX and Vehi-  
cle Resale Lot).

## ASA Dix Thrift Shop

5105 Pennsylvania Avenue  
723-2683

Summer clothes bargain:  
\$2.50 per grocery bag stuffed  
with summer clothing. Stuff your  
own bag with a large variety to  
choose from.

## Arts & Crafts Center

562-5691

Bldg. 6039  
Philadelphia Street

**Registration hours:**  
Tuesday - 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
Wednesday and Thursday  
Noon to 5 p.m. and  
6 to 8:45 p.m.

Friday - 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

## Joint Base Library

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Avenue  
754-2079

Hours of operation  
Monday through Thursday  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday  
noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Visit

[www.jointbasemdl.af.mil](http://www.jointbasemdl.af.mil)

for more information



# NEIGHBORHOOD

## The Corner

### Thrift shop to host Fall Yard Sale

The ASA Dix Thrift Shop at 6501 Pennsylvania Avenue will hold its Fall Yard Sale **Saturday**. The hours are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Setup will begin at 9 a.m. A donation of \$10 is requested for one parking space display. Participants should bring tables. Participants may register in advance at the Thrift Shop during regular hours or may leave requests at 723-2683. The Thrift Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on that date.

### Walson Alumni Brunch coming to Pemberton

A brunch has been scheduled for alumni and friends of Walson Army Hospital. The buffet brunch will be held **Oct. 25** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Anapa's Country House in Pemberton. The cost for the brunch is \$18, payable at the door. Call Christa Karyewski at 893-7559 or e-mail [lobo102@comcast.net](mailto:lobo102@comcast.net), or Mary Filippini at 499-1289 or e-mail [maryfilippini@comcast.net](mailto:maryfilippini@comcast.net) to make reservations by Oct. 16. Call your fellow alumni and friends to inform them of this event. The brunch provides an excellent opportunity for fellowship, to reminisce, and enjoy good dining.

### Spouse group to host Fall Festival

The ASA Dix Spouse and Civilian Group will host a Fall Festival and Membership Drive **Oct. 18**, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the event will be held at John Mann Park rain or shine. This fun, free, event will feature snacks and fall crafts, kids' bounce house, door raffle prizes, and information on the ASA Dix women's group as well as United Communities and Joint Base Youth Sports and Community Services. Half price armbands for admission to the go-carts, miniature golf, and batting cages will be available for \$5.

### Issues sought for Family Action Plan Conference

Speak out and be heard at the Military Family Action Plan Conference, **Oct. 29** from 8 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. at Timmermann Conference Center. For more information call 562-2767.

### United Communities offers Resident Referral Program

Need some extra cash? United Communities is now offering a resident referral bonus program. It's as simple as referring your friends and co-workers to live with United Communities. For more details call the United Communities Leasing Office at 723-4290.

### American Legion hosts made-to-order breakfast

The American Legion Post 455 will prepare a made-to-order breakfast of fried and scrambled eggs, biscuits, french toast, SOS, pancakes, omelets, coffee, tea and juice. Step up to the special order window and place your order and the food will be delivered to your table while you stroll the extensive buffet line. Price is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under age 12, and free for kids under age 5. The American Legion Hall in New Egypt is on Route 528 West, across from Agway. The breakfast is held every first Sunday of the month from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 2 Meadowbrook Lane, New Egypt. Call (609)758-8131 for more information.

### Dinner Theater coming to Club Dix

"The House of Conundrums," an interactive Mystery Dinner Theater Show is coming to Club Dix **Oct. 16**. Tickets are \$19 or adults and \$12 for children. Tickets are available at Club Dix. Doors open at 5 p.m., showtime is at 7 p.m. For more information call 562-5355.

### Enter to win free Joint Base shirt

Celebrate the most unique military installation in America by entering to win a joint base shirt at [www.gomdl.com](http://www.gomdl.com). One shirt for each branch, Navy gray, Army green and Air Force blue, will be drawn at random each week. Winners notified by e-mail. Brought to you by the 87FSS.

### Shawn Morris Public Affairs Staff

The Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst community came together at Laurel Pond Sept. 26 to celebrate the 16th Annual National Public Lands Day.

More than 100 volunteers from the joint base and surrounding communities worked over 400 hours on improvements at the pond and recreation area.

"Thanks to their efforts, we were able to get all of our projects finished," said Jennifer Armento, Fort Dix Natural Resources. "This included a large storm water erosion project, trail maintenance, installing interpretive trail signs, weeding, pruning, planting over 900 native plants, putting together nest boxes, and picking up litter."

According to its Web site, [www.pub-landsday.org](http://www.pub-landsday.org), National Public Lands Day (NPLD) began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers.

This past year, eight federal agencies and 120,000 volunteers worked at 1,800 locations in every state.

The goals of NPLD are, according to the Web site, to educate Americans about critical environmental and natural resource issues and the need for shared stewardship of these irreplaceable lands, to build partnerships between the public sector and local communities based upon mutual interests in the enhancement and restoration of public lands, and to improve public lands for outdoor recreation.

At Laurel Pond this past Saturday, these goals were met due to the selfless service of volunteers, according to Armento. "We had a very successful event," she said.



Shawn Morris

**THE ROOT OF THE MATTER** -- Jhasiah Tuitt, 8, left, and Mahogany Tuitt, 11, try to remove a root at Laurel Pond during National Public Lands Day Sept. 26.



Ceramic art works by Dale A. Becker

**TILE STYLE** -- Ceramic tiles by artist Dale A. Becker are on display at the Arts and Crafts Center through the end of October.

## Art Center exhibit highlights ceramics

### Lisa Evans Public Affairs Staff

October promises great things for would-be sculptors as Dale A. Becker brings his unique take on ceramics to the Arts & Crafts Center. Becker became part of the Arts & Crafts family in September with a showing that will run through October.

Welding, carpentry, clay, and wood, are all parts of Becker's art. He has incorporated trades into art, blended tile with sculpture, clay with exotic woods.

"I love sculpture and respect it. I have worked with sculpture, life size, bigger than life size. But I always liked the idea of tiles," Becker said. "Clay seems more people-friendly. Sometimes with sculptures people can't relate. With tile work, it is more easily seen by people and they can appreciate it. This is something that for me, it just feels good."

His ceramic tiles create textures that seem to grow from the frame, almost as if they grow and recede. Each sculpture has a life of its own, independent from the clay that forms it, a vibrant life taken from a coral

bed, the edge of a pond. Sit in the gallery quietly and the artwork will seem to breathe.

"I love to imagine corals and fishes and insects, life, things I grew up with," Becker said. "As a person, I like working with color. My earlier works were black and white, almost a negative/positive effect. Now the color is bright and bold."

The colors meld with frames he builds to cradle the ceramic gently but with strength.

"I love exotic woods, woods from a variety of areas and the colors are totally incredible. They add to the integrity of the tiles, give them an added beauty and self-worth," he explained. "I love the beauty of hardwood, the way they smell, they way they hold their shape. Hardwoods are a really wonderful tool, with carvability (sic) that makes it own forms."

Becker is at home with woods and clay. His path to finding his unique niche in the art world took a few forays into the trades. But he knew from a young age what he wanted to do and let no one discourage him.

"In high school I wanted to get into the art program in St. Louis, but

(continued on page 11)



Shawn Morris

**HAPPY TRAILS** -- Nicole Nadolny, 11, repairs a trail sign at Laurel Pond during National Public Lands Day Sept. 26.

## Footwear maven takes Manhattan

### Steve Snyder Public Affairs Staff

Gus Siabanis was born in Greece, near the Bulgarian border, in 1946. The area was no stranger to poverty so Gus moved to Athens when he was only 11 years old. There, an old family friend taught him the time-honored art of shoe-making. Gus took to it like the craftsman he was to become.

After marrying a beautiful Greek girl named Sophia, Gus came to America in 1970. He settled in Brooklyn and began to fashion his version of the American Dream. Gus took to making ladies' shoes for sales in the fashionable salons of Manhattan. Business was good and Gus was proud to be an American.

In 1997, Siabanis decided to branch out. He opened a shoe repair shop in the JB MDL BX/PX plaza, fixing shoes and mending other leather goods for military members and their families. For 12

years he would commute from Brooklyn to Fort Dix, working 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, five days a week.

Long drives and hard work never fazed him because he realized immigrants to America, like himself, had built the country and enabled it to prosper.

But the technology of boot-making was changing, too. Military boots began to be made under the principle of planned obsolescence. Soles and heels were no longer made to be replaced by anything but an entirely new boot.

Gus' craft is no longer in demand. AAFES, finally, did not renew his contract to operate in the PX.

But Siabanis, like the heroes and demi-gods populating myths in ancient Attica, has an essentially indomitable soul.

He intends to ply his trade once again in the shadows of Manhattan's towering edifices of steel. He will show crotch city types what leather is made of.



Steve Snyder

**THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING** -- Gus Siabanis buffs boots at his shoe repair shop at the JB MDL BX/PX plaza. Siabanis has spent 12 years fixing shoes and mending other leather goods for military members and their families but has decided to trade military life for city life in Manhattan.



# Honors and Awards



Lisa Evans

Capt. Gregory Holloway and 1st Sgt. John Comer, A Company, 1/112th Infantry, 56th Stryker Brigade from Butler, Pa., accept a Welcome Home plaque during a ceremony held at Timmermann Center Sept. 8



Lisa Evans

Capt. Francisco Junkin and 1st Sgt. James Bickerstaff, B Company, 1/112th Infantry, 56 Stryker Bde. from Cambridge Springs, Pa., accept a Welcome Home plaque at Timmermann Center Sept. 8



Lisa Evans

Capt. Nicholas Buchheit and 1st Sgt. Brian Henderson, C Company, 1/112th Infantry, 56th Stryker Bde. from Bradford, Pa., accept a Welcome Home plaque at a brief ceremony held at Timmermann Center Sept. 8



Lisa Evans

Capt. William Grosinski and 1st Sgt. Lawrence Deal of the HHC, 1/112 Infantry from Cambridge Springs, Pa., accept a Welcome Home plaque at the Timmermann Center Sept. 10.



Lisa Evans

First Sgt. Thomas Fitchett and Capt. David Sutton of the 229th Military Police Company from Virginia Beach, Va., left, and Capt. John Walker and Sgt. 1st Class Chad Riggles of the 939th Military Police Company from Indianapolis, Ind., hang Yellow Banners Sept. 19 as they prepare to leave for missions in Iraq.



Ryan Morton

Capt. Peter Muller and 1st Sgt. Daniel Murphy, C Company, 1/111th Infantry Battalion commander and first sergeant, display their unit's Welcome Home plaque after returning from an Operation Iraqi Freedom mission at Timmermann Center Sept. 10. The unit is from Kutztown, Pa., and is part of the 56th Stryker Brigade.



Ryan Morton

First Sgt. Steven Yeatman and Capt. Daniel Bulkley, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th Stryker Brigade, display their unit's Welcome Home plaque upon returning from an Operation Iraqi Freedom mission at Fort Dix's Timmermann Center Sept. 15. The unit is from Philadelphia, Pa.



Ryan Morton

Lt. Col. Mark O'Hanlon, 1st Sgt. Thaddeus Richards and 1st Lt. Eric Ponzek, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/111th Infantry Battalion commander, HHC first sergeant, and scout platoon leader respectively, display their unit's Welcome Home plaque at Fort Dix's Timmermann Center Sept. 10. The unit is from Plymouth Meeting, Pa.



Ryan Morton

First Lt. Manuel Polanco and 1st Sgt. John Hebert, 39th Military Police Company, display their Welcome Home plaque and Yellow Banner returned to them upon their unit's return to Fort Dix from an Operation Iraqi Freedom mission Sept. 22. The unit is from Minden, La., and is part of the the Louisiana National Guard. The unit mobilized through Fort Dix last fall and performed a Police Transition Team mission in Iraq where they trained the police forces.



Lisa Evans

Capt. Douglas McConnell and 1st Sgt. Steve Squires of the 1139th Military Police Company out of Harrisonville, Mo., hold their Yellow Banner before hanging it in Infantry Park Sept. 19. The 1139th MPs are heading to Iraq.

## Scholarships awarded

Two Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst members were among twenty-five individuals recently selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships through the Air Force Services Club Membership Scholarship Program.

Club members and their families were given the opportunity to submit a 500-word essay on "The High Cost of Freedom." A total of 154 entries were submitted to the Headquarters, Air Force Services Agency for Air Force-level consideration.

The 2009 scholarship winners from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst are club member Staff Sgt. Dominick Griego, and Jessica Hill, daughter of Col. Scott W. Hill.

According to Fred McKenney, Air Force Services Agency Food and Beverage Division chief, this is the 13th consecutive year Air Force clubs have hosted this scholarship essay contest.

"Air Force clubs continue to help their members and their families with the cost of higher education," said Mr. McKenney. "The quality of this year's essays was outstanding."

The scholarships are funded by Air Force Services, Chase Bank and the Coca-Cola Company (No federal endorsement of sponsors intended).



# Trainers find fun at Organization Day

**Capt. Antonia Greene**  
72nd Field Artillery Bde.

More than 500 Soldiers and Families of the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade and its eight subordinate battalions with duty at Fort Dix gathered at John Mann Park, Sept. 25 for a day of camaraderie - fun, food, and festivities.

The day of unwinding and friendly rivalry began at 10 a.m. with a short, informal stand-to where the commander and command sergeant major addressed the Soldiers and welcomed family members.

"Organizational day is not

just for Soldiers of the brigade, but to share esprit de corps with family and friends, who - without them and their support, we can't do what we do," explained Col. Timothy R. Williams, commander, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade.

Andrea Mac, civilian operations automation assistant, headquarters, 72nd FA Bde., brought her two children, Jaiden, 4, and Andrew, 14 months, along with her mother, Jean Anderson and Aunt Cindy to share in the day of togetherness.

"It's exciting to bring our families and co-workers together on a casual level and break from the everyday grind," said Mac.

The commander's wife and brigade Family Readiness Group (FRG) advisor, Lisa Williams, hosted a FRG table with family-friendly information to help folks familiarize themselves with the brigade and available resources at Fort Dix. A representative from Operation Military Kids also set up a table with helpful materials for spouses and give-a-ways for unit children. Unit FRGs held opportunity events offering tickets for prizes such as gift baskets, NASCAR tickets, and the popular PSP (Play Station Portable). Brigade FRG volunteers ran the leaders' dunk tank and pie-in-the-face contest throughout the day, collecting donations from Soldiers and Family for the opportunity to sink commanders and smash whipped cream pies in their faces - all in good fun, of course.

"I was thrilled to see the amount of participation and personally, my kids had a ball today and are exhausted, which is always a good thing," said Ellen Vinzant, the brigade executive officer's wife and FRG treasurer.

The kids enjoyed all-day giant slide rides and the bouncy house and three-hour passes for mini golf, go-carts and batting cages, all provided by the brigade FRG. 3rd Battalion, 315th Training Support Regiment Soldiers kept the grills hot,

flipping burgers and hotdogs, serving chicken, ribs and all the fixings - the line stemmed across the lawn as hungry Soldiers and families awaited the feast.

The most coveted quest of the day was the race for the Commander's Cup. Traditionally, brigade organizational day offers a variety of competitive events that span the entire day, where by sister battalions battle for first place overall and the right to call itself - the best. The battalion and headquarters teams competed in this year's chosen sporting activities of

309th Training Support regiment took first in the volleyball competition and ultimate tug-of-war; however, 2nd Battalion, 309th Training Support Regiment took three out of the five first place trophies - claiming the 2009 Commander's Cup.

"Second to none," boasted 1st Lt. Housh Lee, operations section, Urban Warfare Center. A play on words, referring to 2nd Battalion, 309th Training Support Regiment, Lee, along with his fellow 2/309th comrades, proudly held up the unit banner, posing with the Commander's Cup, capping off the day's festivities, just before the sounding of Retreat.

## Songstress named Rising Star

**Lisa Evans**  
Public Affairs Staff

Alisa Piteo took home \$500 as the overall ASA Dix winner of Operation Rising Star 2009 at Club Dix Sept. 25. Piteo is



Lisa Evans

**RISING STAR** -- Alisa Piteo sings an encore after winning the Operation Rising Star competition at Club Dix Sept. 25.

the wife of Staff Sgt. Joseph Piteo, 87th Security Forces Squadron.

"I don't know what to say. This is the first time ever that I'm at a loss for words," Piteo said of her win. "I didn't realize I was going to win. I mean, country

music coming to New Jersey.

"I'm an Army brat. My mom is from New Mexico and my dad from South Georgia, but I spent a lot of time in Texas and that is eventually where I want to be."

Her usual taste in music reflects that life. To win this contest, she stepped sideways a bit, singing an old standard done by country music and pop stars alike, "Black Velvet." She received raves from the judges for this song and her second song of the evening, Pam Tillis' "Mi Vida Loca."

Sgt. Maj. Rodney Little, 75th Division, told her, "Realistically, you were sensational. You had even more polished crowd involvement and I really enjoyed it."

Chico Bradley, musical director and musician with many years experience, had a different take, getting far more technical when he told her, "You have a very, very powerful voice. I love your voice. You have a squall, a raspiness that is defined; you are a singer's singer. You add color and shape to music."

As the first-place winner, Piteo will qualify for the 2009 Rising Star finals. Marianne Tatcher, special events coordinator for Family, Welfare, Morale and Recreation, will mail a copy

of Piteo's final performance and a copy of her acappella song to Operation Rising Star officials. Official judges will watch the videos and vote for the top 12 singers to go on to the final round. For the final round, the videos will be put online for voting by the military community which will choose the final winner.

The final winner and a guest will receive an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles California to record a three-song CD. The trip includes airfare, lodging, \$500 spending cash and three days studio time at a professional recording studio. Professional studio time includes; music arrangement, mixing, mastering, vocal coach, four musicians for one day, an audio engineer, and a CD producer. The winning contestant will receive his or her own personal professionally recorded and edited CD. Approximate retail value for this top prize is \$18,200. The final second-place winner will receive \$1,000 and the third place winner will receive \$500.

The McGuire Family Support Center won the Spirit Award of \$300 for their presence and appreciation of the contest this year.



Capt. Antonia Greene, 72nd FA Bde.

**SLIP AND SLIDE** -- Jack Williams, 14, and Andrew Williams, 12, sons of 72nd Field Artillery Brigade commander Col. Timothy Williams, slide down an inflatable slide together at the brigade Organizational Day Sept. 25 at John Mann Park. Families as well as Soldiers of the brigade were invited to take part in the festivities.

## Ceramics at Arts Center

(continued from page 9)  
I was told since I had not taken courses from the beginning freshman year I could not take any courses in art," Becker said in his biography.

So when his family moved from Missouri to Florida when he was 18, he enrolled at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

"I started taking art courses and basically found my true love," he said. "I like the idea of being able to work with a material I could do almost anything with. If you damage it you can always integrate it so you can make it work. The nice thing about clay is you can touch up problems, sponge off the area, or remold it. It's a pleasing kind of process, relaxing."

Becker graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree in sculpture/ceramics. After graduating from USF, Becker apprenticed as a welder to save enough money to put himself through graduate school.

He then graduated from Washington State University, Pullman, Wash. with a master's of fine arts degree in sculpture/ceramics.

Since graduating, he has taught clay sculpture workshops at the University of Utah and was a visiting artist in the ceramics programs at Florida and New Jersey colleges. His most recent teaching experience has been at Burlington County College where he taught art history, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, and an introduction to art courses.

As with most artists, Becker hasn't yet found that pinnacle where he can support himself and his family with his art alone.

His early apprenticeship in welding has enabled him to earn a living as a welder and carpenter and earned him a job with Johnson Atelier in Hamilton.

There, Becker was able to marry his work skills with his art

skills at the foundry begun by the Johnson and Johnson family in 1974.

From 1995 to 2000 Becker provided technical assistance in casting bronzes, working with Seward Johnson on his many life-sized sculptures, and building shipping crates as well. When the foundry closed down in 2000, Becker began his own business, RAA Fine Arts, which he runs from his farm in Pemberton.

His work has been shown in Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, Utah, and New Jersey. Becker is registered internationally with Soho Myriad, a national/international firm representing artists for high end hotel/motel chains.

Until the economic recession hit businesses so hard, Becker had been hired to create the artwork for a 4200-foot restaurant in Florida and a chain of hotels.

Once the economic situation turns around, he expects to begin work full-time with the clay he loves so much, building a fountain and creating art tiles for the restaurant in Florida and art works hotels around the world.



Lisa Evans

**TILE WORK** -- Artist Dale A. Becker will display his work at the Arts and Crafts Center through the end of October.